

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## **FAIRFIELD MEN SENTENCED FOR ROLES IN METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, today announced that on September 18, 2006, two codefendants in a large methamphetamine manufacturing and distribution conspiracy centered in Wayne and White Counties were sentenced in United States District Court in Benton.

**JEFFREY D. WEST**, age 43, of Fairfield, Illinois, was sentenced to a total term of 262 months imprisonment, a fine of \$750, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of 10 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

**MICHAEL S. McDANNEL**, age 35, also of Fairfield, was sentenced to a term of 108 months imprisonment, a fine of \$750, a special assessment of \$100, and a term of 4 years supervised release to follow his incarceration.

Both WEST and McDANNEL had previously pled guilty to an indictment charging them with conspiring to manufacture and distribute 500 or more of methamphetamine.

Under Federal law, parole has been abolished and defendants are required to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences.

These convictions and sentences resulted from a long term investigation into the manufacture of methamphetamine in Wayne and White counties. Thus far, that investigation, which began in 2003, has resulted in the federal indictment of 33 individuals in related cases who, in total, were responsible for the manufacture or attempted manufacture of the equivalent of over 400,000 grams of methamphetamine. In addition to the 33 defendants who have been indicted federally, over 20 additional defendants have been prosecuted in related cases in state court by the State's Attorneys in Wayne and White Counties.

Investigation into the case is being led by the Carmi office of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, with the assistance of the Illinois State Police, the Fairfield Police Department, the Carmi Police Department, the White County Sheriff's Department, the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Wayne County State's Attorney's Office, the White County State's Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.